

Inside Region 3

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Exotic Nuisance

Round Goby Expands Its Range in Chicago Area Waterways

Recent surveys of Chicago area waterways by the LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office indicate the round goby, a non-indigenous fish native to central Asia, has expanded its geographic range at least 16 miles further downstream in area waterways during the past year.

During its June surveys, LaCrosse FRO staff captured goby in the Little Calumet River, and the Calumet Sag Channel as far downstream as river mile 308.5, nearly 25 miles inland from the round goby's point of origin along the shores of Lake Michigan. Both waterways are part of the Mississippi River navigation system. In July, the Army Corps of Engineers informed the LaCrosse FRO that Corps staff had captured round goby at river mile 303.7, on the Calumet Sag Channel, another five miles inland from they were located in June. The Corps' sighting means the goby have moved about 16 miles further downstream from last year's leading edge.

Large numbers of round goby were also captured by trawling in a portion of the Chicago River located within one mile of its confluence with Lake Michigan near the city's downtown Loop district. This represents the first time round goby have been collected in the



Small and Aggressive. The round goby can displace native fish, eat their eggs and young and take over optimal habitat as well as spawn more than once in a season. The goby's fine teeth and muscular jaw can be seen in this photo. (Photo by Lloyd DeGrange)

Surveys show the inland distribution of the round goby is now proceeding along two converging pathways in the Chicago area and toward the Mississippi River at a rate that has significantly increased during the past year. Current year class production and an abundance of the rocky habitat preferred by round goby, particularly in the Calumet Sag Channel, are expected to promote the continued downstream migration of this exotic nuisance toward the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal.

Round goby are now present throughout most of the Calumet Sag Channel downstream as far as river mile 303, nearly 30 miles inland from their original point of introduction along the shores of Lake Michigan.

Chicago River during these annual spring surveys.

Round goby were not found in any other portion of the Chicago area waterways surveyed this year, including the Des Plaines River and the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal.

To help limit the spread of the goby and other nonindigenous fish between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River Basin, an electrical fish barrier is scheduled to be installed next year in the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal near river mile 296.5.

Continued periodic surveillance of round goby distribution in the Chicago-area waterways will be necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of the electrical fish barrier and the need for additional control measures to prevent this species from expanding its range further within the Mississippi River basin.

Partners in the survey included Argo

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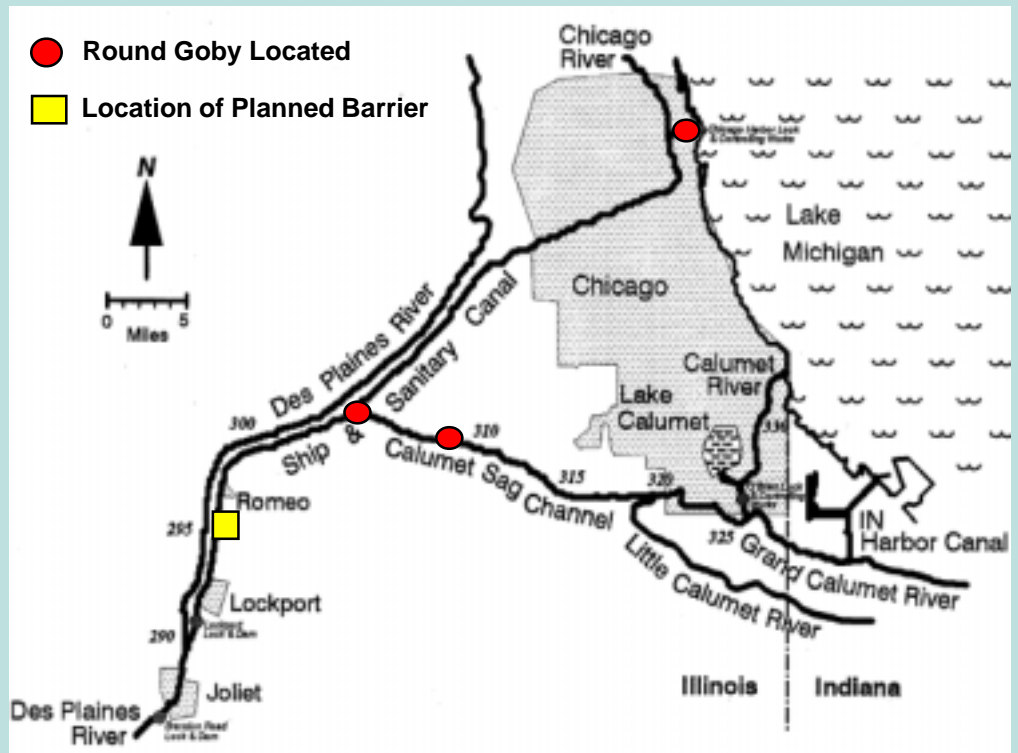
Round Goby on the Move in Chicago Area Waterways

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High School, Commonwealth Edison, Cook County Forest Preserve, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, Loyola University of Chicago, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Perch America, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Geological Survey. (Mark Steingraeber, LaCrosse FRO)



Round Goby grow to about 6 inches in length. (Photo by Center for Great Lakes and Aquatic Sciences.)



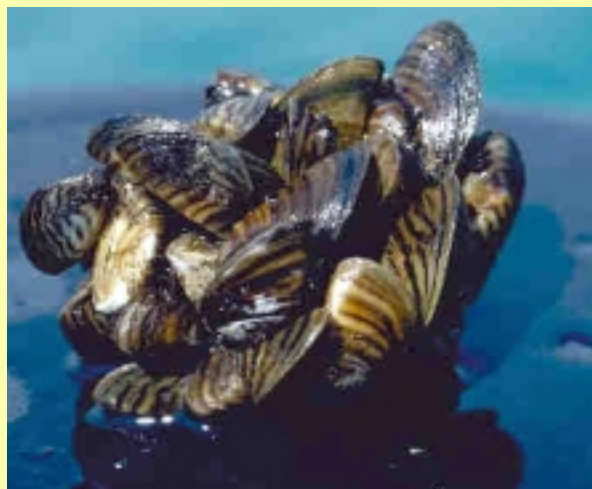
Avenues of Encroachment. A series of waterways in metropolitan Chicago connect the Great Lakes and Mississippi River drainage basins. These shipping channels facilitated the spread of the infamous zebra mussel, an exotic nuisance species, to environmentally sensitive portions of several

interior North American drainage basins earlier this decade. Now there is concern that the round goby, may similarly be expanding its range across mid-America with adverse consequences for native aquatic species. (Graphic courtesy Mark Steingraeber)

Service Partners Search For Zebra Mussels in St. Croix River, Nearly 800 Boats Examined

The first survey dives to monitor the spread of zebra mussels in the St. Croix River conducted recently by Service divers and others yielded few mussels on boats and fixed sites along the sample area.

In late June, a crew of divers led by Byron Karns of the National Park Service, and Scott Yess of the Service's LaCrosse Fishery Resource Office searched for zebra mussels along the river from Stillwater, Minn., to Prescott, Wis. Nearly 800 boats, three mussel beds and several fixed material sites were examined. The exotic was found



Choke Hold. Zebra mussels wreak havoc by attaching themselves to underwater structures, including fresh water mussels. (Photo courtesy Center for Great Lakes and Aquatic Sciences)

on only two boats that had been previously moored on the Mississippi River.

Zebra mussels have been at the door step of the St. Croix, a National Scenic Waterway along the Minnesota - Wisconsin border, for several years, but have yet to develop a reproducing population within the waterway.

Partners in the effort include the Twin Cities Field Office, Minnesota DNR, Wisconsin DNR, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Army COE, Northern States Power, Coast Guard and Minnesota and Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission. (Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO)

Indiana Hunter Convicted of Canadian Wildlife Violations

Service Special Agents Help Canadian Authorities Investigate Bear Poacher

An Indiana black bear hunter was fined \$3,000 plus court costs in a Winnipeg, Canada, provincial court June 30, and forfeited a full mount black bear, valued at \$2,000, for violating Canada's Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRIITA).

Robert Craig Sibbitt of Green Castle, Indiana, pled guilty to one count of transporting parts from an illegally taken black bear from Ontario to Manitoba, and one count of exporting black bear parts to the United States without proper permits. The conviction stemmed from a May, 1998 hunting and fishing trip to Northwest Ontario where Sibbitt and three other Americans hunted and fished without valid provincial licenses. After illegally killing a black bear, Sibbitt transported its parts into Manitoba and the United States in violation of WAPPRIITA and the United States' Lacey Act.

The investigation involved Service special agents and wildlife officers

from Environment Canada, the Manitoba Department of Natural Resources and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Three search warrants led to the seizure of a fully mounted 400-pound black bear and a trophy black bear skull, which would have ranked as Ontario's third largest in 1998. Enacted in 1996, WAPPRIITA is a Canadian law similar to the U.S. Lacey Act. The law allows Canadian wildlife officers to pursue poachers who transport the parts or derivatives from illegally taken wildlife from one province to another, or export to another country. Maximum penalties are \$150,000 and/or up to six months in jail for individuals, and \$300,000 and/or up to five years in jail for corporations.

This investigation is a good example of the close working relationship between the Service and Canadian wildlife enforcement agencies. The investigation into the illegal hunting continues. *(Larry Harris, Indianapolis LE)*

Refuge Partners Band More Than 300 Canada Geese at Trempealeau NWR

Staff from Trempealeau NWR, together with members of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and 29 volunteers teamed up July 1, 1999, to band 313 Canada geese.

The team used a flotilla of 17 canoes to herd the geese in to a pen where they were banded. In addition to the foot bands, 42 geese were neck banded.

The Wisconsin DNR organized the banding operation while Refuge staff gathered volunteers to help with the process. Volunteers from the Wisconsin Conservation Corps, Minnesota Conservation Corps, the Private Industry Council work crew, and Wisconsin Waterfowl Association participated. *(Lisa McCurdy, Trempealeau NWR)*

Habitat Restorations Planned For 15 Refuge Wetlands at Minnesota Valley

Minnesota Valley NWR will restore 55 acres of habitat on 15 wetlands in

the Minnesota River Watershed by Fiscal Year 2000 after recently receiving a Clean Water Action Plan (CAP) grant to fund the project.

The restoration project will provide habitat for migratory waterfowl, neotropical migrants, herptiles, and aquatic invertebrates. Restoration plans include stabilizing eroding streambanks to prevent soil loss; establishing a native vegetative corridor with woody species; restoring a diverse class of wetlands; and fostering new partnerships with various organizations.

Wetland restorations will include tile breaks, earthen dams, and control structures. Streambanks restoration will be done via bioengineering practices and include reshaping and resloping; rootwads; tree revetments and re-vegetation of native species.

The restoration practices will provide habitat for waterfowl, songbirds, and fish and also improve water quality on 55 acres of a diverse class of wetlands and 450 feet of eroded streambanks. The project involves the cooperation of more than 20 individual landowners and seven different organizations. *(Mike Mailing, Minnesota Valley NWR)*



East Lansing Field Office Monitoring Impact of 30 Million Gallon Sewage Spill in Michigan's Muskegon County

The East Lansing Field Office was notified April 21, 1999 of a large sewage spill caused by a broken sewer main owned by Muskegon County, Michigan.

Despite a quick response by the county, 30-40 million gallons of raw sewage spilled into small urban streams and parts of Muskegon Lake at the mouth of the Muskegon River.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) reported approximately 20 dead fish, primarily carp and suckers, from the urban creeks where the spill first entered the water.

Lisa Williams of East Lansing Field Office monitored the spill for impacts to natural resource damages until April 26, coordinating with the Michigan DEQ over the six days to evaluate injuries to fish and other trust resources.

Fish kills were observed in the much larger Muskegon Lake, presumably because of cool temperatures, dilution including 3-4 inches of rain during the spill event, and the ability of fish to escape to non-impacted areas of the lake.

Michigan DEQ will continue to monitor the biota of Muskegon Lake and consider possible enforcement

actions.

The broken sewer pipe was 27 years old and had been expected to last 50 years. It was originally purchased from a company that has since gone bankrupt because of similar failures.

At this time, the impact of the spill on the Service's trust resources does not appear to merit the expenditure of further pursuing a natural resource damage assessment against Muskegon County, especially since the pipe manufacturer is not a viable party.

(Lisa Williams, East Lansing Field Office)

Minnesota Valley Restores Habitat on 99-Acres at Erin Prairie WPA

Minnesota Valley NWR recently completed of habitat restorations on 99 acres in the Erin Prairie Waterfowl Production Area in Rice County, Minn.

The restorations include 16 acres of seasonal and semi-permanent wetlands and approximately 74 acres of native prairie.

The restored tract is located next to a 250-acre WMA and will provide excellent pair, breeding, and migratory habitat for waterfowl. Restoration of this tract was made possible through partnerships from Metropolitan Council, NAWCA Grant, and contributions from various local sportsman clubs.
(Mike Malling, Minnesota Valley NWR)

Accomplishment Reports

The following accomplishment reports were processed July 9, 1999.

- 607. Search For Zebra Mussels in St. Croix River Yields Few Exotics**
Scott Yess, La Crosse FRO
- 608. National Wildlife Week Assemblies**
Ed Moyer, Minnesota Valley NWR
- 609. Grant Funds Wetlands Restorations at Minnesota Valley NWR**
Mike Malling, Minnesota Valley NWR
- 610. Minnesota Valley Restores Habitat on 99-acres at Erin Prairie WPA**
Mike Malling, Minnesota Valley NWR
- 611. Night Hike Held at Necedah**
Jennifer Rabuck, Necedah NWR

- 612. Master's Program Teachers Visit Necedah**
Jennifer Rabuck, Necedah NWR
- 613. Osprey Hatch at Necedah**
Jonathan Olson, Necedah NWR
- 614. Radio Interview at Necedah NWR**
Jennifer Rabuck, Necedah NWR
- 615. Lake Trout Planting Completed - Lake Huron**
David R. Huntly, Jordan River NFH
- 616. Muskegon County Sewage Spill Monitored for Impact to Trust Resources**
Lisa Williams, East Lansing Field Office
- 617. Media Contact on Saginaw Settlement**
Lisa Williams, East Lansing Field Office

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| <p>618. Media Contact: Contaminants & Shiawassee NWR
Lisa Williams East Lansing Field Office</p> <p>619. Judge Signs Saginaw NRDA Consent Judgement
Lisa Williams East Lansing Field Office</p> <p>620. Over 300 Canada Geese Banded Through Partnership
Lisa McCurdy Trempealeau NWR</p> <p>621. Indiana Bear Hunter Convicted of Canadian Wildlife Violations
Larry N. Harris, Indianapolis LE</p> <p>622. Survey of Red Lake River - COE Project
Frank Stone, Ashland FRO</p> <p>623. Fishery Surveys - Red Lake Reservation
Frank Stone, Ashland FRO</p> | <p>624. Round Goby Expand Further Within Chicago Waterways
Mark Steingraeber, La Crosse FRO</p> <p>625. WI DNR Begins Fish & Wildlife Strategic Plan
Michael Vanderford, Federal Aid, Regional Office</p> <p>626. New Method Used to Complete Native Grass Seeding
Steve Kallin, Windom WMD</p> <p>627. Chief of Division of Refuges Tours Windom WMD
Steve Kallin, Windom WMD</p> <p>628. Leafy Spurge Beetles Flourish
Steve Kallin, Windom WMD</p> <p>629. Oak Savanna Re-establishment
Steve Kallin, Windom WMD</p> <p>630. Environmental Education for High School Students
Steve Kallin, Windom WMD</p> | <p>631. Youth Learn Firearms Safety
Steve Kallin, Windom WMD</p> <p>632. Eighth Annual Family Fishing Fair
Russell Engelke, Mark Twain NWR</p> <p>633. Southernmost Illinois Delta Empowerment Zone
Elizabeth Jones, Cypress Creek NWR</p> <p>634. Refuge Staff Hosted Aide From Sen. DeWine's Office
Elizabeth Jones, Cypress Creek NWR</p> <p>635. Refuge Officers Conduct Holiday Law Enforcement
Clyde Male, UMRNW&FR, McGregor</p> |
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Inside Region 3

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Great Lakes
Big Rivers

Region 3